As a service to our English speaking listeners, we present this summary of the week's news stories from Lithuania read in English. Our news comes to us from the Open Media Research Institute by way of the Internet and from ELTA and the Baltic News Service courtesy of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Internet access is graciously provided by John Carroll University Computer Network Services.

MINISTER SAYS NO DIRECT THREAT TO LITHUANIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN CROATIA

VILNIUS, Aug 02, BNS - Despite intensive clashes between Serb and Croatian forces, a Lithuanian peacekeeping platoon in Croatia faces no direct threat, Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius said Wednesday.

Linkevicius told a news conference that 32 Lithuanian "blue helmets" are stationed in the Sunja village on the territory of the Serb-held Krajina region, about 80 kilometers from the recent war theater in Bihac and about 200 kilometers from the zone of Serb-Croatian hostilities.

The Lithuanian platoon presently in Croatia is the second such unit participating in U.N. operations within the Danish Peacekeeping Battalion. The current platoon ends its six-month mission in former Yugoslavia on Aug. 19 and will be replaced by 33 new Lithuanian peacekeepers, who are about to complete training in Denmark.

Linkevicius said he had spoken to his Danish counterpart Hans Haekkerup over the phone on Tuesday and agreed on a constant exchange of information about peacekeepers from both countries and the situation around them.